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muzzling act and rigid legislation regarding the importation of dogs have practically eradicated rabies from England. This was largely due to the influence of the English dog. Every dog will have its day in this country as it has in England if Dr. GOLDWATER'S rigid execution of the muzzling law is continued.

Political Activity in Cuba.
In an editorial in its issue of November 10 *La Lucha*, one of the leading Havana newspapers, presents a somewhat alarming statement of the political situation in the island. The election is still far away, but as far as political leaders and aspirants for office are concerned, the campaign is already a whirlwind. Its consequences are beyond prediction. *La Lucha* declares that "no pleading picture [perspectiva halagadora] can be given of the dangerous reality in which we are involved. Everything seems to have gone to pieces. Ruin menaces all. The confusion that now reigns throughout the national territory is as a frost of pessimism on the flower of all our hopes."

As stated in Mr. Goober's article in *The Sun* of November 14, Cuba's political organizations are split into conflicting and contesting factions. Regarding this *La Lucha* says: "The about atoms to which our political parties have been reduced by interests created by their own atmosphere and by the irreconcilable ambitions of their leaders present to the country only a future full of painful disillusion. It is useless to underestimate the malign influence of our deplorable political practices. Neither the Liberal party nor the Conservative party merits any confidence whatever. Both are divided and subdivided by interests contradictory and irreconcilable, of a personal character in all cases." The article proceeds with the assertion, correct beyond question, that all of these many groups subordinate the general welfare of the community to the satisfaction of their own ambitious desires, and adds: "The situation, then, is very serious, and the circumstances of the coming general elections give to it the character of a real crisis."

As applied to these groups, the term "party" is almost farcical. A political party is an organization having or claiming to have policies and aims distinguishing it from other political organizations. There is no such distinction in Cuba's "parties." The personal element dominates. For years the numerically dominant Liberals have been split into *Zaristas*, followers of ALFREDO ZAYAS, and *Miguelistas*, of JOSE MIGUEL GOMEZ.

Now there are within their ranks, all parading as Liberals, half a dozen other "isms." GOMEZ and ZAYAS were the defeated candidates for the Presidency and Vice-Presidency in 1905, the successful candidates for those offices in 1908, and again the defeated candidates in 1912. Several years ago they quarreled. At present they have every appearance of being bitter and relentless enemies, each prepared to go to any length to defeat the ambitions of the other. Both are distinctly professional politicians. Their administration, January 28, 1909, to May 20, 1913, was an orgy of graft. If the stories of the press and the talk of the public are to be accepted as evidence, if loaded the country with the National Lottery, and granted concessions utterly without standing in law or in morals.

The Menocal Administration has been clean at least. GOMEZ and ZAYAS are still in the ring, fighting each other and every one else. Not long ago GOMEZ, a leader in the deplorable revolution of 1906, virtually threatened to repeat that experience in the event of the defeat of his party, whatever that is, in the election next year. Mr. Menocal has repeatedly declared that he will not, under any circumstances, accept re-nomination. In that event NEREZ, an excellent man, now in the Menocal Cabinet, seems the most probable candidate of the Conservatives.

At present all is political confusion and personal animosity. It is not impossible that the country will be saved from a worse condition by the ever present fear of these self-seeking politicians that a third and final intervention by the United States would be precipitated by a more serious disturbance. These pestiferous politicians, each seeking his personal advancement and the gratification of his personal ambitions, with little or no regard for the highest welfare of the people, are to-day the bane of the island and a grave menace to its future. There is some reason to believe that the people are slowly but steadily coming to a realization of the dangers inherent in such a situation.

The article in *La Lucha* and others that have appeared in that and in other publications are a hopeful sign of such an awakening. The organization of a "re-electionists" party, notwithstanding MENOCAL'S refusal to run, is another good sign. So is a proposal to organize a real party of the people, with candidates that would include none of the now quarrelling leaders of parties and "isms." The case is not at all hopeless, but its present and prospective gravity must be admitted.

Shall the City Obey the Law?
The city of New York has for years been a notorious violator of laws and ordinances that in theory are impartially enforced against all individuals and corporations within its boundaries. In police stations, prisons and institutions of charity it has permitted sanitary conditions

that would not have been tolerated in enterprises under private management. Municipal operation has seemed a sufficient defence against municipal regulation.

It is now reported that so far as the Health Department jurisdiction extends the city when it neglects to obey the laws and ordinances will be treated like any other offender. The requirements of the department are to be enforced on other departments without that gentleness which has been so apparent in the past. Commissioner BRONSON has issued a general order in which he says:

"There is no reason for considering public property or the premises maintained or operated by the city as in any way exempt from the standards required under the Sanitary Code of private owners."

The inmates of many city institutions are not in them from choice. Some of them are prisoners undergoing punishment. Others are wards of charity. All are peculiarly in need of healthful surroundings. It is a discredit to New York that it has not lived up to the standard it has set for others, and Dr. BRONSON'S decision to make it obey the code is an index of good sense and sound reformatory instinct.

What Is Adequacy of Preparedness?
Senator GORE, whose views are interesting when they happen to express the belief of some minor body of public opinion, has expressed himself on preparedness. He favors naval expansion. He opposes increase in the standing army. On the auxiliary military system and on such matters as military training in the colleges he is not now reported.

Many persons want a larger navy and an army no greater than we now have. They seem to regard the first line of defence as a complete structure of security. They remember our ultimate successes in the wars we have had. They forget that we have never faced a foe both prepared and anxious to "clean up" quickly. They forget the extravagance, the losses in life and money, and above all the humiliations to which we have needlessly subjected ourselves—as when, in the war of 1812, a few thousand British regulars "brought devastation into our territory." Upton is quoted, "and successfully without the misapprehension of seven millions of people" burning the national capital while a numerically superior force of defenders fled, with a loss of only eight men killed and eleven wounded.

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Many persons want a larger navy and an army no greater than we now have. They seem to regard the first line of defence as a complete structure of security. They remember our ultimate successes in the wars we have had. They forget that we have never faced a foe both prepared and anxious to "clean up" quickly. They forget the extravagance, the losses in life and money, and above all the humiliations to which we have needlessly subjected ourselves—as when, in the war of 1812, a few thousand British regulars "brought devastation into our territory." Upton is quoted, "and successfully without the misapprehension of seven millions of people" burning the national capital while a numerically superior force of defenders fled, with a loss of only eight men killed and eleven wounded.

Major-General LEONARD WOOD has made the statement that as matters stand now "once sea power is lost or held in check an enormous force can be landed on these shores within a month, a force sufficient to go where it will and to hold whatever it desires to hold." A high brick wall topped with barbed wire or broken glass is a defence to an estate that inspires confidence and encourages a pleasing sense of safety against predatory invasion; but how foolish would be thought the owner of the estate if he should neglect to guard the house itself, with its treasures of art, plate and fine furnishings!

If a choice had to be made, if we could not have both the outer and the inner defence, sensible opinion might be honestly divided. But we can and should have both: the fleet to scour the seas, and all the resources of military strength on land in readiness for instant use; which does not imply that the country should be turned into an armed camp.

Even the Hon. CLAUDE KITCHIN grants the need of adequate insurance. Whether the nation indorses Mr. KITCHIN'S definition of adequacy remains to be seen.

Investigating the State Charities.
Between the State Board of Charities and the Department of Charities of this town is an ancient feeling of resentment, which has never been more acute than it is to-day. From it have sprung accusations, charges, denials, explanations and defences innumerable. The effect of these has been to shake everybody's confidence in both institutions and to fill the public with fear that its extensive relief agencies fail to perform their functions properly.

It is a cause of satisfaction that Governor WHITMAN has appointed a commissioner under the Moreland act to investigate the State institutions, the Charities Board, the Fiscal Supervisor, the State Commission and the Building Improvement Commission. The Charities Board welcomes the inquiry, and other bodies and individuals must submit, however they may feel about it.

Great good should come from the revelation of the methods and practices of the charitable institutions. If there are abuses, they can be corrected; if all is as creditable as the Commissioners assert, they will win fame; and in any event, the popular mind will be set straight on a subject that for years has filled it with doubt and misgivings.

Has the Missouri Bull Moose Blundered?
Has the Missouri Bull Moose, which on Saturday put forward ROOSEVELT and JOHNSON as its national ticket, received from the Golden Gate information of a date later than that which guides the conduct of most of us? The linking of THOMPSON and HIRAM indicates this, or that the Missourians have wilfully disregarded the proclamations and asseverations of the California orator.

For months those visitors to Hiram who were privileged to sound the